

TOWN OF CHATHAM
488 State Route 295
Chatham, New York 12037

TOWN BOARD MEETING
held virtually
June 18, 2020
6:30 PM

PRESENT

Supervisor Donal Collins, Councilmembers Vance Pitkin, Abi Mesick, John Wapner and Kevin Weldon, CAATS Tammy, Town Clerk Beth Anne Rippel, Town Attorney Tal Rappleyea

Supervisor called the meeting to order and led the pledge to the flag.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- | | | |
|----|------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. | Bob Balcom | Re: Broadband |
| 2. | Paul Sagan | Re: PB Public Hearing |
| 3. | Georgene Gardner | Re: Swimming |
| 4. | Brin Quell | Re: Crellin Park |
| 5. | Vicki Wills | Re: STR |

REPORTS: On File

1. Assessor
2. Code Enforcement/Building Inspector
3. Dog Control
4. Environmental Management Council
5. Finance Department
6. Highway Department
7. Justice Court
8. Office of the Aging Advisory Board
9. Recreation Director
10. Supervisor's Report
11. Town Clerk

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Report by Councilman Wapner and Councilman Weldon: Parks & Recreation Committee. Wapner reported that they are focusing on Wests status in the Park, park plan and fundraising. Working on getting the waterfront open and other parts of the Park . CARP said the Town is not meeting their responsibilities
2. Report by Supervisor Collins: Citizens Finance & Planning Committee. No meeting
3. Report by Councilman Weldon: Climate Smart/Action Task Force Committee. EVCS has been repaired. Weldon said thanks to his relationship with the repair person the Town was only charged for the parts. Subcommittees are still meeting including the Solar Committee.
4. Report by Councilwoman Mesick: Communications Committee. Mesick reported that they haven't met. They're considering an outside meeting if necessary when Phase 4 is in effect.
5. Report by Councilwoman Mesick: Comprehensive Plan Update Review Committee. They haven't met since the shutdown and are anxious to get started with the hamlet meetings..
6. Report by Councilman Pitkin: Broadband Committee
They're having trouble acquiring information on who has broadband and who doesn't. They're considering a questionnaire on the FB page and may do a mailer. David Levow submitted a piece to the newspaper. Collins and Pitkin met with Spectrum and have an upcoming meeting on June 30 at 1:30 with Consolidated to figure out where broadband needs to expand into.

NEW BUSINESS:

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Short Term Rental Proposed LL (discussion & timeline) (See Attached) Collins said that he'd like to get a definition of STR and put in place the permitting process. Weldon asked about the proposal he and Wapner had written. Wapner said that their alternative draft of a STR law has 3 differences and he wants to discuss this when the public can participate. Mesick stated that she supports the suggested draft and wants to set a public hearing on July 16. She congratulates the new draft but there's a reason we're here, they have a different take on this. Mesick said they'd like to take data gathered from the hamlet meetings, stay within the confines of the Comprehensive Plan but in the mean time we need to keep it basic and move forward. Collins said that the County PB meets on July 23 then they can hold a public hearing. Pitkin said that he wants to make it clear that this is a stopgap measure and not what we may finally end up with after the Comp. Plan is updated. WE need to put forth something in the meantime so we have some control over STR. This draft is the best alternative. Weldon said there are citizens who are not in favor of Abi's draft and the Board shouldn't pass anything without more discussion. Collins said he's comfortable with the current draft and we need to move forward. Wapner irritably said that the logic is ridiculous that they think that this is temporary measure. They are not listening to the public. North Chatham could become a community of non-resident STRs owners and by adopting this draft this is exactly what's going to happen. . Pitkin disagrees with Wapner. When Wapner

talks about ignoring people in Town you ignore people who have STRs and who rely on them to help pay the bills. Weldon wants to know who the focus is on. Pitkin said that Weldon is a business man and knows how important it is to have outside money here and without STRs there is no place for people to stay. . Mesick said if you follow NYS Law our laws are in accordance with the Comprehensive Plan .STR problems and ideas are not lost on her, she understands the drawbacks. You give people a chance to make a return on their property and ask that the Board give this a chance. Wapner to Pitkin said he agrees that we need STRs giving residents the ability to have a STR but we want to keep out people who are doing STRs strictly for money. Wapner wants this to be based on a person residing in the STR. Your logic doesn't hold up Wapner said. Collins said that there are people who need to supplement their income by renting out their homes because they aren't bale to be here full time. Weldon said he's thinking about residents of the Town. Wapner said that they had proposed that STR could rent for 44 days or less without having to go through the permitting process to do it. Try to make the business available to residents. People can do with their properties what they want. Mesick asked what happens if there's a problem. Wapner said good question, that's the weakest point in their proposal. . However the owner would be there at the STR to deal with it. Collins said he appreciates the comments but wants to move forward.

A motion was made by Collins to send the proposed Local Law 2 of 2020 to the Columbia County Planning Board for review and set the public hearing for August 6 at 6:30 PM. Pitkin seconded the motion and motion carried.

2. Solarize Chatham (info from 6/4 meeting attached) Collins presented the resolution. Mesick questioned the last paragraph and asked if the Town was agreeing to "assist" with it. Eaton referred to the draft scoping document. The Board is the "boss" and if they'd like to review any press release before its public then that's what will happen. Collins is very grateful for all the work Angus has put into this

3. Reopening Safety Plan for Town Hall, Highway, Town Court (Guideline attached)
Pitkin reported that the Tracy opened Tuesday, the court will be closed through the month of July although they are ready to open at any time.

RESOLUTIONS:

1. Resolution 92-2020 To accept the Town Accountant's Financial Supervisor's Report.
Offered by Weldon and seconded by Pitkin

VOTE

AYE: Collins, Pitkin, Mesick, Wapner, Weldon NAY: None Resolution adopted.

2. Resolution 93-2020 To accept the Financial Abstract as presented to pay the Town bills.
Offered by Collins and seconded by Mesick.

VOTE

AYE: Collins, Pitkin, Mesick, Wapner, Weldon NAY: None Resolution adopted.

3. Resolution 94-2020 To approve minutes of previous Town Board Meetings.

Offered by Collins and seconded by Weldon

VOTE

AYE: Collins, Pitkin, Mesick, Wapner, Weldon NAY: None Resolution adopted.

4. Resolution 95-2020 To Support Solarize Chatham.

WHEREAS, Solarize Chatham is a local effort that brings together groups of potential community solar customers through widespread outreach and education, and

WHEREAS, this model helps customers better understand community solar, which is a new concept in New York State, and

WHEREAS, this model helps customers choose a community solar subscription company that is offering competitive, transparent pricing, and

WHEREAS, the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) provides technical assistance and other tools and resources to communities in support of Community Solarize campaigns.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Chatham supports, endorses, and is committed to participate in Solarize Chatham.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Chatham stands ready to assist with community outreach and education in support of Solarize Chatham.

Offered by Weldon and seconded by Pitkin

Mesick had a great big thank you for Angus. Angus said he'd forward the draft to NYSERDA

VOTE

AYE: Collins, Pitkin, Mesick, Wapner, Weldon NAY: None Resolution adopted.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Mesick had a conversation with a parent who wants to use the baseball field for pitching practice for their kids. Is this OK to do she asked. Pitkin said that that brings up the next topic which is last week's "lockdown". Pitkin said he's had a change of mind on some activities. He wants to put up signage and require masks. Wapner said that he, Pitkin and Weldon have come up with a list of 7 things they want opened at CP, they all agreed on the list.. Collins was expecting to see this in a more formal format, such as a resolution. Mesick asked if all the things on their list were in agreement with the guidelines set forth by the Governor. Wapner said he wasn't sure, Pitkin believes they are. Wapner wants to discuss the list tonight and make a motion to accept. Rappleyea reminded the Board that they still need to go through protocols and they have to comply with the Governors. Pitkin said West has been working with Henry Swartz on safety measures for the Park. As per Rappleyea Swartz doesn't think the Town is near ready to open. West reported that Swartz does have the protocol and he has reservations but he is in support of the beach safety plan and volunteer plan. They will only be at 50% capacity on the beach and

in the water. Mesick asked how social distancing would be achieved. West replied with added supervision.

Discussion continues.... West is hoping for a July 4th weekend opening of the waterfront. He has a very well thought out plan and he'll add weekly meetings to evaluate how things are going. Pitkin said what changes his mind on opening was that the Governor feels that it's safe to open state parks and beaches as long as people adhere to the guidelines. . He's ready to move to the next step. West said if there's something that makes the Town uncomfortable they can close it down. Swartz was hesitant and had reservations about opening the waterfront but he's now a bit more comfortable knowing that the CC DOH Chuck Keiser has reviewed the plan. Collins said he's a worry wort , it's impossible to social distance kids. He wants to keep the beach closed and worries if we are the only game in town then how many people are we going to get.. West wants to start these activities safely and he's working on that plan. West doesn't see this as problematic since it will be a regulated activity as opposed to people swimming at the pond without the waterfront being open for that purpose. West asked Rappleyea, how much liability can be put on groups using the Park and not on the Town. Rappleyea replied that there is the assumption of risk. If you are injured as a result of something you didn't expect the Town could be liable. The Town has to make sure that they're following all the guidelines. Swartz said that every outside organization using the Park should have their own safety protocol.

Collins suggested a special meeting next Thursday at 6:30, the waterfront is a priority.

Wapner said that historically the Town hasn't adequately funded recreation or the Park. We should use Mike's judgment; he said that he can staff it. Swartz suggested that if the Town choses to open the waterfront then they should do random checks to see that everything is operating smoothly and if not close it down. West believes he can wait until next week which will give him a 6 week session. .He'll need 2 weeks to get ready. For every week they don't open there is a reduced cost of \$1500.

Weldon wants to discuss affordable housing at a future date and expanding the water and sewer from the Village. Collins said that there wasn't much enthusiasm from Mayor Howe but he'll look into it again. *Wapner* asked how we're dealing with the financial "dilemma" and what are we doing. It needs workshop time.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Fiorillo – wondered how the director planned on discouraging people from staying at the beach all day. Bobseine – spoke about STR law and favored the one Wapner and Weldon wrote and advised the Board to think about who the owners of the rentals are. She said that people are eager to use the Park, the rules need to be made clear.

Matthews is disappointed that the STR went forward.

Werweiss reported that STRs are a concern to the NC neighborhood and they are ready to freak out, they could be facing destruction.

Moore felt that the second STR law is more balanced and comprehensive. It's undemocratic to take action without allowing for public input.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: "Motion to enter into executive session to discuss the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person."

On a motion by Collins the Board entered Executive session at 8:45 PM under Public Officers Law §105. (f) for the purpose of discussing medical, financial, credit... Wapner seconded and the motion carried.

On a motion by Collins the Board left Executive Session at 9:08 PM. Pitkin seconded and the motion carried. On a motion by Collins the meeting adjourned at 9:10PM. Wapner seconded and the motion carried

Respectfully submitted by,

Beth Anne Rippel
Town Clerk